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Labour scores high over Tories
LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party has emerged as the biggest opinion poll lead over the ruling Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher since she came to power nearly 11 years ago. A poll in the Sunday Times shows Labour a record 77 per cent ahead of 23 per cent and the Conservatives at 34 per cent. The poll lead would give Labour leader Neil Kinnock a 120-seat majority in parliament at a general election. "This growing lead not only demonstrates the deepening hostility to the Tories (Conservatives) but also the public's increasing belief in Labour's capacity to form an alternative government," a Labour Party spokesman said. Labour has maintained a lead in the polls during nearly a year of spiralling interest and mortgage rates which have reached 15 per cent or above, hitting homebuyers' loan repayments. Thatcher is also coming under increased attack, even by her own supporters, for introducing a new local tax, the community charge, as a means to fund a new property tax. The government acknowledges many people's bills will increase considerably but blames local councils for overcharging.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يوتيبي سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والرأي

Palestinian killed in W. Bank
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Masked assailants Saturday shot dead a West Bank Arab suspected of helping Israel, military sources said. Palestinian sources said the Arab was shot in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. He died in hospital from his wounds. Palestinians identified him as Ayid Hawajeh, 30, and said he was suspected of collaborating with Israeli officials. Arabs have killed 187 fellow Arabs during the 26-month-old uprising. The main targets have been alleged informers and Arabs suspected of vices such as drug dealing and prostitution. Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed 625 Arabs, and 44 Jews have died in the unrest. In Gaza City, troops shot and wounded seven Palestinians in clashes with stone-throwers, hospitals said. The army clamped curfews on two Gaza City neighbourhoods on the adjoining Shati refugee camp, residents said.

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PAC sees unity with ANC

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — A leader of a radical group which broke away from the African National Congress (ANC) in 1959 said Saturday the two organisations were close to reaching an agreement following the release of Nelson Mandela. "We hope we will be mature enough to resolve this issue. We are addressing it and we are not far from reaching a solution," Joseph Rencore, a leader of the recently formed internal wing of the now legalised Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), added. The PAC broke away from the ANC saying its 1955 freedom charter offered too many concessions to whites and deprived blacks of their full rights.

Sudan rebels claim capture of outpost

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Saturday they had captured a military outpost near the besieged southern city of Juba, killing six soldiers and capturing two trucks. The radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said rebel forces captured the outpost known as Bridge 40 on the main road from Juba to Yei, shortly after dawn Saturday after fierce fighting. The army garrison at Yei, 150 kilometres southwest of Juba, has been under siege by the SPLA since mid-January.

Huge drug haul in fruit-seller's car

MILAN (AP) — Police have seized 85 kilograms of pure Turkish heroin in a Sicilian fruit vendor's car in Milan, authorities announced Saturday. The authorities put the value of the drug at \$83 million. After police arrested the fruit dealer, whom they identified as Francesco Palmieri, 53, Friday evening, they went to his house where his son had barricaded himself inside, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. After forcing their way in, police arrested the 24-year-old son, Daniel Palmieri, a truck driver, ANSA reported.

Kenya's slain minister buried

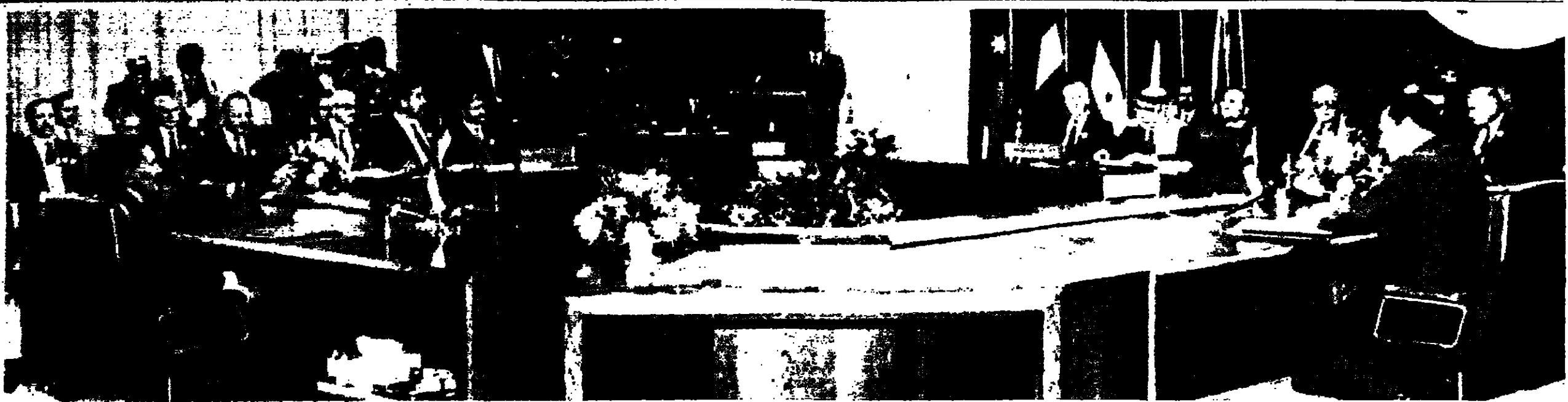
KORU, Kenya (AP) — With hundreds of police keeping order and a widow's plea for calm, Kenya's slain foreign minister was buried Saturday on his western farm near Lake Victoria. In the wake of riots that accompanied the funeral of Robert Ouko Friday, his wife, Cristobel, appealed to demonstrating university students and thousands of other mourners: "If you love him as you say you do, I beg you with tears in my eyes and as his widow to let us give him a peaceful sendoff." The burial service, conducted in the traditions of Ouko's Luo tribe, ended without major incident, despite demonstrations by students demanding an explanation of his murder.

Honecker said to have fortune

HAMBURG (R) — East German prosecutors suspect former Communist leader Erich Honecker amassed a huge private fortune during his years in power, the West German magazine Der Spiegel reported Saturday. It said Honecker, ousted last October, appropriated 75 million marks (\$45 million) in 1989 alone. The money, paid by West Germany to "buy" the release of political prisoners, was lodged in an account to which only Honecker had access, the magazine said.

Saudi Arabia bans British beef

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Saturday banned British cattle imports because of the outbreak of "mad cow" disease in Britain, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. "We have informed the ministry of trade... of the ban on importing British cattle until they are proven free of 'mad cow' disease," SPA quoted a statement by the Ministry of Water Resources and Agriculture as saying. It did not give the level of Saudi imports of British cattle. The statement said all responsible authorities had been provided with information about the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), so they could take precautions.



A scene from the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

11 agreements signed; next conference in Baghdad in October ACC summit ends; results 'positive'

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ended their summit here Saturday, one day ahead of schedule, but having achieved the objectives which they have set for their conference. A senior Jordanian official described the talks among the leaders of Iraq, North Yemen, Egypt and Jordan as "brotherly, positive and fruitful." The summit achieved "its goals in full, and there was agreement that the conference could end Saturday evening instead of Sunday, since it was possible to tackle the agenda and sign the accords in one day," the official said. The summit held its final session Saturday evening at 7 p.m., seven hours after His Majesty King Hussein opened the gathering and took over the chairmanship of the council. In a statement read out at the final session, ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur said the four leaders had endorsed 11 cooperation agreements. The concerned ministers of the four countries formalised the agreement by signing them at the televised session. The agreements cover cooperation among the ACC states in

science and technology, planning, industry, oil and gas, tourism, local administration and municipal affairs, health services, meteorology, air transport and civil aviation, maritime transport, and religious affairs. The next summit will be held in Baghdad in October, the King announced in his final statement to the conference. The senior Jordanian official who spoke to the Jordan Times dismissed speculation that "differences" among the participants of the summit were the cause for cutting short the duration of the conference. "The truth of the matter is that President Ali

Abdullah Saleh (of North Yemen) had to leave early for home to attend to an official matter there, and all the leaders agreed that, since the agenda could be covered in full on Saturday, the conference could be closed Saturday night." There was talk earlier that a scolding attack launched by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein against American policy and what he described as unlimited U.S. support for Israel and its policies had "upset" the Egyptian delegation "which felt itself under pressure from such open criticism against an ally with which Cairo maintains close relations."

However, Egyptian and other Arab sources dismissed the talk as "not valid." The four leaders "conducted their deliberations in a brotherly and open atmosphere," the sources said, some of them bearing the story on the "differences" for the first time. "Everything is going well," one Egyptian official said. In his closing statement to the conference the King said he had hoped that the leaders of the ACC countries could stay for a longer period of time so that Jordan could accord them a greater measure of hospitality. But

(Continued on page 5)

Political statement

FOLLOWING is an unofficial translation of the highlights of a political statement issued by the four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) at the conclusion of their one-day summit here Saturday: The leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council Saturday stressed the need to halt the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and human rights and an open aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people and a threat to the Arab Order and current efforts for peace in the Middle East. His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said that the Soviet Union and the United States bear a special responsibility towards this issue and therefore put an end to the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories. The four Arab leaders said the ACC countries take pride in the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against Israel. The four leaders look with pride at the ongoing struggle of the oppressed people and their intifada, which is now in its third year, and voice their full support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and independent statehood on their national soil. The ACC leaders emphasised the need to convene an international peace conference under United Nations auspices to achieve a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli

(Continued on page 5)

King: Despite crises, Jordan remains steadfast

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday described the massive influx of Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel as "a new and most dangerous dimension" to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and called for a united Arab stand to deal with the issue as well as other threats facing the Arab World. The King, addressing the opening session of the first anniversary summit of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), also underlined the need to formulate an Arab strategy to deal with the sweeping changes in world politics, particularly the end to the cold war.

The Arab World faces the option of either being part of the international developments and "employ them to enhance its existence, stability and growth or to be on the periphery of these developments and so become a prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded without having gained any benefit," the King told the leaders of Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen. The King referred to the now-no-peace situation in the Gulf after eight years of war between Iran and Iraq, and reaffirmed total support for Baghdad's initiatives to arrive at a negotiated settlement with Iran. "Unfortunately, these initiatives have not met a favourable response from the other side, and

the war has yet to reach the just conclusion that we all hope for." The King described the deadlock in Arab League-led efforts to settle the Lebanese civil war as "explosive" and said "it jeopardises not only the existence of Lebanon but also of the whole Arab Order."

Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the possibility that hundreds of thousands of them could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip jeopardise "Arab security and constitute an obstacle to peace, as well as a new blow against the intifada and the legitimate Palestinian people's struggle to gain their liberty and independence on their national soil," the King warned.

The King said Jordan was the target of an Israeli clamour over "non-Jordanian military presence on the Arab soil" of the Kingdom, and the "Israeli campaign (comes) at a time when we suffer a reduction in our capabilities and resources and face tremendous difficulties in securing the minimum that allows us to defend ourselves and the integrity of the Arab Nation."

Despite the "negative effects of the drop" in its resources, Jordan "shall remain... forbearing, resolute, and steadfast in its vanguard, ready to defend our country and to absorb the first wave of any aggression against the Arab Nation," the King said. (Full text of the King's speech on page 5).

Egypt awaits peace move from Washington

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egypt is ready to work in full concert with Jordan to heal inter-Arab differences, including the rift between Iraq and Syria, prior to setting up a joint Arab front to confront common challenges, two senior Egyptian officials said Saturday. "We join our hands with His Majesty King Hussein to see whether there is common ground that will be sufficient to create a united Arab front that would be a front for peace, for stability and security throughout the region," said Osama Al Baz, political advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid also expressed Cairo's total support of King Hussein's efforts towards achieving Arab unity and cited a statement by the Egyptian president at the opening session of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit here Saturday as reaffirmation of this support. Mubarak told the summit session that Egypt "completely supports Jordan" against any developments or threats endangering the Kingdom's stability and the unity of its people. "There is a pan-Arab and international commitment to protect Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity... and to ensure its positive role in the peace process," Mubarak said.

In a short interview conducted on the fringes of the ACC summit, Baz told the Jordan Times that Egypt intends to work with Jordan towards clearing the Arab atmosphere, which, he said, was being "spoiled" by the Syrian-Israeli rift. Baz called on all Arab states to "join ranks and to forget about their differences because (the differences) are minor compared to the threats we face from the outside."

He said that Arab leaders were concerned over Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories because "it would encourage extremists in Israel to achieve their aims of what they call 'transfer'." He added that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories would also result in the "negation of the rights of the Palestinian people to live" in the occupied territories. According to Baz, who is widely described as Egypt's Middle East policy architect, the continuation of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine would "destabilise the entire region and prevent the peace process from taking its course."

Answering a question whether there were moves to convene an Arab summit to discuss the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel, Baz said it was not a question of holding a summit "but (rather) a question of having contacts and coordinating moves among Arab countries."

"We are waiting to see the outcome of discussion in the United Nations Security Council and then the Arab leaders would assess the situation... not before," Baz said. He described as "sheer lies" reports that Soviet Jewish immigrants were passing through Cairo to Israel.

He said that what was needed at this time "is a quick action so

that Egypt intends to work with Jordan towards clearing the Arab atmosphere, which, he said, was being "spoiled" by the Syrian-Israeli rift. Baz called on all Arab states to "join ranks and to forget about their differences because (the differences) are minor compared to the threats we face from the outside."

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Water and food security tops ACC concern — Qasem

By Mariam Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The member countries of the Arab Cooperative Council (ACC) regard the security of their water resources as one of the most important issues facing them today. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Saturday. "Since the ACC countries import 80 per cent of their food needs, food security for the Arab Nation is of utmost importance and water is necessary to guarantee the improvement of our agricultural potential," Qasem said. "Water is a number one priority for the ACC member states."

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the ACC summit here, Qasem, the official spokesman for the conference, said: "Food is a weapon that was used against countries which were not able to become self-sufficient in food production and we saw how Dr. Kissinger used this in the 1970s."

He said that Iraq and Syria had been severely affected by Turkey's temporary shutdown in the flow of the Euphrates river earlier this year and that it was the duty of all Arab countries to safeguard Arab water rights. On other issues facing the ACC and the rest of the Arab World and tackled by the council summit here, Qasem stressed the need for Arab unity in a world with an increasing number of regional blocks. He said the actual role or power of any Arab state, regardless of its size or wealth, stood little chance against a world that increasingly presents itself in regional groupings and alliances. The Middle East peace process, he said, was advanced by moves by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab coun-

tries, but further progress was blocked by Israel. "It is Israel which is at this point deterring peace based on UN Security Council resolutions and a settlement based on land for peace," he said. Qasem stressed the illegality of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and, in an apparent reference to the official American reluctance to describe them as illegal, added: "Some big powers have contradictory attitudes. On the one hand they back peace based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 while on the other hand they fail to emphasise the illegality of settlements in the occupied lands."

He said the ACC and the rest of the Arab World were anxious to settle the rift between Syria and Iraq, "since disunity allows for more exploitation of Arab interests."

The foreign minister highlighted the urgent need to formulate a united Arab stand to counter the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel. He recalled that a joint position adopted by Saudi Arabia and Iraq had dissuaded many countries from moving their embassies to occupied Jerusalem, which Israel claims as its "eternal, indivisible capital."

Israel 'will never accept Palestinian right to return'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Saturday dismissed a message from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on peace talks and said Israel would never accept the return of Palestinian refugees.

Arafat said in a letter to a Jewish conference in occupied Jerusalem on Friday that he was willing to discuss terms for the return of thousands of refugees who fled when Israel was created in 1948.

Israeli doves interpreted the statement as a softening by the PLO, which has previously said the right of return was not negotiable. "We don't want to discuss any right of return... it is tantamount to the disappearance of Israel," Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, told a reporter. Arafat's letter also said the PLO supported Arabs from the occupied territories taking part in peace talks with Israel. But Pazner said: "The government is not interested in the PLO

position. They are not a partner in negotiations with Israel, therefore what they say is irrelevant." Israel regards the PLO as a terrorist group, but Egypt has been consulting it on efforts to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens failed Friday to arrange a preliminary meeting prior to the proposed Cairo talks, but left the impression of eventual success. "It was a very constructive and

hopefully a very productive meeting," Baker said after talking to Arens alone for 30 minutes in his State Department office. Arens agreed, saying "we had a good constructive conversation."

However, when Baker was asked if he had been able to set up a three-way meeting with Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid — the first step in a dawn-out U.S. plan for negotiations — he replied: "No, we have not agreed today

on the timetable for a trilateral meeting." After the meeting, Arens flew to New York and planned to continue on to Israel Saturday night. He will brief Shamir and the Israeli cabinet separately on Sunday, officials said. In his letter sent to the Jewish gathering, Arafat said that the Cairo talks would have to be part of a process "aimed at a comprehensive and final settlement" and that its agenda "could cover all the conceptual ingredients of that process."

He said that what was needed at this time "is a quick action so

Syrian gunboat attack on Cypriot ferry kills 1, injures 15

LARNACA (AP) — A Syrian gunboat opened fire on a passenger ferry travelling between this East Mediterranean island and the Lebanese port of Jounieh Saturday, killing one passenger, crew members said.

Fifteen passengers were wounded, four critically, they said.

The British Royal Air Force (RAF) evacuated 15 of the wounded by winching them aboard three helicopters several hours before the ship docked at Larnaca at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT).

The wounded, most suffering cuts and burns in the legs from shrapnel, were rushed to local hospitals for treatment.

The dead man was identified as Nasser Abu Nasr, 26, who was going to Lebanon to pick up his pregnant wife because he had just obtained an emigration visa to Canada.

"He was hit by shrapnel all over his body," said 22-year-old Rima Suleiman, a receptionist on the boat.

"He was sitting facing the bar exactly facing a shell hit."

The shellfire also started a fire on board which was extinguished, the crew said.

At least 20 holes were visible in the starboard (right) side of the ship when it docked, and shattered pipes throughout the ship leaked water.

One of the shells went through a window on the central deck housing the bar and the cafeteria,

causing most of the casualties as passengers sheltered there, said third officer Andreas Michaelis.

He said the ship was attacked three separate times within an hour, starting around 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) when it was 30 kilometres west of Jounieh.

Crew members said the sailors on board the 50-metre-long gunboat fired warning shots over the ferry and then hailed it in Syrian-accented Arabic.

The name Aoudah was visible on the side of the ship as it circled the ferry and it was flying a Syrian flag, they said.

"They asked us who we were on board and where we were going," said Egyptian mechanic Mohamed Mohamed Al Mursidi, 27. He said he talked with them over the radio because most of the crew spoke only Greek or English.

Michaelis said the Baroness M started to turn around after the warning shots, and the gunboat returned 10 minutes later and fired the first salvo at the ferry.

He said the fire appeared concentrated just below the bridge at the captain's quarters, which were wrecked.

The gunboat attacked a third time about 20 minutes later when

the Baroness M was headed back toward Larnaca, Michaelis said, sending shells into the passenger areas.

Crew member Danny Zarour said the gunboat "peppered the side of the ship with shells."

"When the Baroness M radioed for help for the wounded passengers, the Syrian boat hauled down its flag," Zarour said.

"Pandemonium reigned on board," added Michaelis.

"We ran from one side of the boat to the other as the gunboat circled," Suleiman said.

Nora Kasbari, spokesman for Socomar, agents for the ship, said it carried 64 passengers and 52 crew members. The boat had left Larnaca at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) Friday for the seven-hour trip to Jounieh, 200 kilometres east.

The RAF answered the distress call, dropping two doctors and a medical team on board to sedate the wounded.

Flight Lt. Dick Bardon said the helicopters hovered above the ship for an hour while the operation was completed. One passenger was too seriously wounded to be lifted off the ship's deck, he said.

The RAF maintains a major base at Akrotiri on the southern coast of Cyprus.

One French passenger on the boat said he did not hear a thing, waking up only when the boat returned to Larnaca.

The boat, one of two that

travels to Lebanon from Cyprus, is a main escape route for Christians in embattled Lebanon, many currently fleeing from the army-militia confrontation that erupted on Jan. 30.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun has been fighting for three weeks for control of the Christian enclave with the Lebanese Forces (LF) under Samir Geagea.

The port of Jounieh is controlled by the Lebanese Forces, which also has a share in the ferry operations. Four gunboats of the Lebanese Navy escaped from Jounieh port when Geagea's forces attacked the navy base at the start of the fighting on Jan. 30.

The four boats, which remained loyal to Aoun, were reported in the waters between Lebanon and Cyprus. The Lebanese coast is also patrolled regularly by the Syrian and Israeli navies.

The captain and crew of the ship had been reluctant to take it to Jounieh because of the risks involved in the ongoing fighting.

The ferry service and other maritime traffic came under fire repeatedly during six months of fighting in Lebanon in 1989 between Aoun and the Syrian army with their Lebanese militia allies.

The ferries were not hit, but at least eight ships were sunk or set on fire, including small boats taking passengers out to the ferry waiting off shore.

"We have to think of finding realistic and humanitarian means to free the foreign hostages," Faddallah said in a sermon.

The hostage issue "has been widely exploited by Western forces to harm the image of Muslims," Faddallah said.

He is the spiritual guide to the Iranian-aligned Hizbollah, or Party of God, which is believed to be an umbrella for groups holding most of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

They are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in mainly Muslim west Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Salman told Mrs. Say, in Damascus on her fifth mission to the Middle East seeking word of her brother and other hostages:

"The GCC states mostly emulate the Islamic system of rule through shura or consultative councils, whose members are appointed to help push through legislation. The leaders also have the weekly majlis, where citizens can call freely with their petitions."

Proponents of Western-style democracy have been active mainly in Kuwait, seeking the restoration of the elected 50-member parliament dissolved in

1986 because of vitriolic attacks by MPs on government members. The Kuwaiti parliament was suspended for four years starting in 1976 for the same reasons.

Bahrain was the only other GCC country to have an elected parliament, but only for a brief two-year spell in the early 1970s shortly after the central Gulf island state gained independence from Britain.

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Syria optimistic over release of hostages

DAMASCUS (AP) — Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Saturday that statements from Iran and Lebanon have given Syria "great hope" that Western hostages in Lebanon will be released.

He told Peggy Say, sister of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson: "We're optimistic for the release at a time when we hear statements by the Iranians and an official in Lebanon."

But he cautioned Mrs. Say that a hostage release may not be imminent.

"The matter requires careful study and patience as well as coordination of efforts with international and local parties. We are following this road," he said.

Salman's optimism stemmed from a statement made Friday in Beirut by Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the most influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric in Lebanon, who called for a new approach to free the hostages.

Fadlallah, who recently returned from a visit to Tehran where he met senior Iranian leaders, spoke the day after an editorial in the Tehran Times, which usually reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, called for the hostages to be freed. It was the first time an Iranian newspaper has made such a statement.

"We have to think of finding realistic and humanitarian means to free the foreign hostages," Fadlallah said in a sermon.

The hostage issue "has been widely exploited by Western forces to harm the image of Muslims," Fadlallah said.

He is the spiritual guide to the Iranian-aligned Hizbollah, or Party of God, which is believed to be an umbrella for groups holding most of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

They are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in mainly Muslim west Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Salman told Mrs. Say, in Damascus on her fifth mission to the Middle East seeking word of her brother and other hostages:

"The GCC states mostly emulate the Islamic system of rule through shura or consultative councils, whose members are appointed to help push through legislation. The leaders also have the weekly majlis, where citizens can call freely with their petitions."

Proponents of Western-style democracy have been active mainly in Kuwait, seeking the restoration of the elected 50-member parliament dissolved in

1986 because of vitriolic attacks by MPs on government members. The Kuwaiti parliament was suspended for four years starting in 1976 for the same reasons.

Bahrain was the only other GCC country to have an elected parliament, but only for a brief two-year spell in the early 1970s shortly after the central Gulf island state gained independence from Britain.

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"We have great hope now that we can work with all concerned to secure the release of the hostages."

He said that earlier statements from Iran and Shi'ite leaders in Lebanon about a possible hostage release "were not made in such a serious manner."

Salman was the second Syrian minister to express optimism to Mrs. Say, who is on a tour meeting with world leaders including Pope John Paul II, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told her Thursday that the Tehran Times editorial was "a good sign" and that he was going to visit Tehran soon and "work intensively with Iranian leaders" for the hostages' release.

Salman echoed Sharaa's belief that a hostage release will be difficult because the chaotic situation in Lebanon has been resolved.

He said the United States could play a more important role than any other country in bringing this about.

Syria, with 40,000 troops in Lebanon, is the main power broker in that country. The Syrians have been instrumental in securing the release of some Western hostages over the last five years and played a role in other releases. Syria is Iran's main ally in the region.

Salman said Syria "would be proud if we were able to secure release of any hostage regardless of his nationality."

"Neither Terry Anderson nor any other hostage is responsible for the problems of the area. And kidnapping cannot solve these problems," Salman said.

Mrs. Say told him: "I know in my heart that Syria's conviction to gain the release of the hostages is total."

She said she hoped a hostage release would bring full reconciliation between Syria and the United States and even between Iran and the United States.

Sudan to free detained British journalist soon

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A British journalist held since Wednesday for unexplained "security reasons" will be released soon, a government minister said Saturday.

Julian Ozzame, 25, of Nairobi, Kenya, was on assignment in Khartoum for the London newspaper Sunday Correspondent when he was questioned Tuesday and ordered to report the next day to security headquarters. He has been held since then.

Ozzame also is East Africa stringer for Financial Times, a London daily, and was to have gone to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Wednesday for that paper. His foreign editor, Jurek Martin, said in London that Ozzame's hotel room was searched and notes and papers taken.

On Saturday, Sudanese Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shannoo said Ozzame was arrested "for security reasons, but his release is imminent. His papers are being examined and his release processed."

He refused to specify the security reasons or what Ozzame was suspected of doing.

Martin said among sensitive issues Ozzame might have been investigating in Khartoum were the 7-year-old civil war in southern Sudan and the trial of five Palestinians convicted in a 1987 bombing of a hotel in the

Sudanese capital.

Seven dead in the attack included a British couple, both aid workers, and their two small children as well as a third aid worker, a teacher. A court hearing is scheduled for March 4 to determine whether the Palestinians should be hanged or be allowed to spare themselves by paying blood money under the Sudanese system of Islamic Law.

The London-based International Press Institute (IPI) said Ozzame had interviewed Sudan's security chief, Col. Bakri Hassan Saleh, before interrogation and arrest.

"We believe that the detention of our colleague is a gross violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the institute said in a protest message sent Friday to Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The institute demanded that Bashir, leader of a 15-officer junta that took power last June 30 from a civilian regime, immediately order Ozzame's release.

IPI says it represents more than 2,000 editors, reporters and publishers around the world.

Meanwhile, two Western doctors, abducted three weeks ago by rebels in war-torn southern Sudan, arrived in Brussels Saturday after being released by their captors.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algerian, Saudi ministers hold talks

NICOSIA (R) — The foreign ministers of Algeria and Saudi Arabia, both members of the Arab League committee for Lebanon, discussed peace efforts for the war-torn country Saturday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. It said Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, in Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca, also discussed bilateral relations with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Syria, Pakistan discuss cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — A Pakistani minister had talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara Saturday about Afghanistan and events in the subcontinent, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. It said senior Pakistani Minister Murtaza Bhutto also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon. Officials said Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad had accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan. No date was given.

Omani forces launch exercise

NICOSIA (R) — The Omani Armed Forces launched a series of manoeuvres Saturday to improve their combat skills, the Oman News Agency said. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said ground, naval and air forces were taking part in the "Daring Adventure-2" war games expected to last several days.

50 injured in Algerian train crash

ALGIERS (R) — About 50 people suffered slight injuries Saturday when a passenger train slammed into a freight train in the Algiers suburb of El Harrach, the Algerian News Agency APS said. APS said the passenger train, bound for the western city of Oran, caught up with the freight train travelling on the same line in the same direction and rammed it from behind. The accident was due to a signalling error, APS said.

GCC, EC ministers to meet in March

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are due to meet in Muscat on March 17, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said in Bahrain Saturday. The Gulf News Agency quoted Collins, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EC, as saying the Europeans had agreed to a proposal for the meeting put by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa. Collins, who arrived in Bahrain Friday night on the first leg of a Gulf tour, was speaking after meeting Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. The agency said regional and international issues, recent democratic changes in Eastern Europe and cooperation between the EC and the GCC were reviewed. Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Sulman Al Khalifa and his foreign and interior ministers attended the meeting which followed economic talks in Granada recently between officials from the two groups. The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

Turkey urges change in Cypriot attitude

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, throwing its weight behind Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş before U.N.-sponsored talks in New York, said Greek Cypriots must change their negative attitude if there was to be a solution to the Cyprus problem. "There is an urgent need on the part of Greek Cypriots to make radical changes in their negative attitude towards Turkish Cypriots," a Foreign Ministry statement said. "It is obvious that in order to establish a political partnership on the island, the two communities will have to have peaceful relations, otherwise the talks and any agreement to be reached will not have any meaning," it said. The statement was issued Friday night ahead of fresh talks between Denktaş and Cypriot President George Vassiliou starting in New York Monday. "Turkey is neither optimistic nor pessimistic on the forthcoming talks," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungan said. Turkey is the only country to recognise the breakaway "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," declared by Denktaş in 1983. The island has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion which followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

Tunisia drafts students into army

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian authorities have drafted 283 militant students into the army in a bid to end weeks of campus unrest by Muslim fundamentalists. Those drafted were among over 580 students held for questioning this week after the Muslim militants occupied university buildings and fought police in Tunis and the southern town of Sfax, the Tunisian News Agency (TAP) said Friday. The authorities did however release Abdul Latif Makdi, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Students' Union, the Islamic group behind the protests, TAP said.

Omani official leaves Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousuf Bin Alawi, has left Tehran after two days of discussions on the deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), which reported the departure, said Alawi considered his visit "highly successful and fruitful." The Omani envoy, seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, said Tehran expressed readiness for strengthening its relations with the Gulf countries. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Alawi's visit was part of an effort by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to revive the Iran-Iraq negotiations. The talks are deadlocked because of differences between Iran and Iraq over the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, which halted the war with a ceasefire in August 1988. "We have always been for the full implementation of the U.N. resolution and accept any efforts in this regard," Velayati said, terming the talks with the Omani delegation as constructive regarding the issue of improving relations among the Gulf states. The GCC members selected Oman last month to mediate between Iraq and Iran.

Western-style democracy 'premature' for GCC

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa was quoted Saturday as rejecting notions that changes in Eastern Europe would have an impact on the Arab states of the Gulf.

He also said it was premature to copy Western-style democracies in the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"Our societies may need some standardised form in future when life problems become more complicated," said Sheikh Khalifa in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Sayassah distributed by the Gulf News Agency.

"When we feel that our people have reached a stage of social complication as a result of the forces of civilisation, then tradi-

tional forms (of democracy) would be inevitable," he said.

Sheikh Khalifa criticised democracy activists in Kuwait and other GCC countries trying to emulate Europeans by pressing for change in their countries, saying: "These slogans will not work in our region."

The GCC groups Bahrain with Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, an alliance of the states that essentially came into their own



The motorcade of the four leaders heads for Hashemiyeh Palace after the conclusion of the summit (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Senate urges ACC leaders to end Iraq-Syria differences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Saturday urged the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to speed up action towards ending differences between Iraq and Syria so that the Arabs can together confront the common dangers. The cable, which was sent by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, also urged the four leaders to take "necessary measures that can help find a solution for the Lebanese problem and end the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf."

Lawzi pointed out that the Soviet Union was about to issue a new law on emigration and said: "This makes it incumbent on the Arabs to exert immediate efforts towards ending differences between Iraq and Syria so that the Arabs can together confront the common dangers. The cable, which was sent by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, also urged the four leaders to take 'necessary measures that can help find a solution for the Lebanese problem and end the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf.'"

Lawzi appealed to the ACC leaders to undertake a clear and speedy policy to deal with the consequences of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Describing the immigration as the most serious danger facing the Arab Nation, the cable called for a pan-Arab summit that should be convened as soon as possible to deal with the situation.

Lawzi described the Jewish immigration as "a threat that is bound to place added obstacles in the path of liberating usurped Arab lands and impede the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom." He said that the influx of Jews would block the way for a just and comprehensive peace and could lead to the expulsion of further Palestinians from their homeland. Above all, he said, "such immigration is bound to create new dangerous realities for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and could pose a serious regional threat to the whole Arab Nation."

Saleh: Yemen supports Jordan against threats

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday voiced his country's full support to Jordan in the face of Israel's threats and said that North Yemen stands behind Jordan and its people in their efforts to defend the homeland and to repel any Zionist aggression.

Addressing the final session of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit, the president said his country refuses all statements and insinuations by Israel directed against Jordan and will provide all forms of support for the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle to achieve freedom.

Petra Bank dispute over

AMMAN (Petra) — The Petra Bank Administrative Committee (PBAC) and the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) Saturday signed an agreement to end a labour dispute between management and staff. Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh announced. According to the agreement, Petra staff will end their sit-in they started Tuesday and will resume work today.

The agreement provides for increasing salaries by JD 7-19, creating new scale for the employees within one month that guarantees the employees' acquired rights, reconsideration of the management decision with regard to raising interest rates on employees' loans. The agreement also includes the bank's agreement to implement the labour law provisions with regarding overtime work and committing the management to refraining from arbitrary dismissal of employees.

Mubarak calls for historic conciliation between Palestinians, Israelis

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday called for full Arab support for Jordan in the face of Israeli threats and in view of the continued influx of Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

Iraq assails U.S. presence in Gulf, support for Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday launched a scathing attack on the U.S. for maintaining its military presence in the Gulf and supporting Israel and said that the Arabs should start to invest financially in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as a means to counter Israeli influence in the U.S.

Since the creation of the ACC last February, the world has witnessed serious developments, described by some as very unusual mainly due to their repercussions on areas in different parts of the world.

It is our duty to analyse these developments and their positive and negative impacts with a view to benefiting from them; and we should confine our discussions to the most urgent topics and the most urgent developments which have a strong bearing on our region.

Addressing the opening session of the summit meeting which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, Mubarak called on the Arab countries to stand firm in the face of Israeli attempts to settle Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands.

The Iraqi leader, in his 30-minute address, also warned that disunity was threatening the future of Arab countries and emphasised the need to establish inter-Arab relations based on non-interference in each other's affairs and non-use of military power in inter-Arab disputes.

World War II resulted in the retreat of powers like France and Britain, and the emergence of the Soviet Union and the United States as superpowers. Washington has led the Western capitalist bloc, while Moscow has been leading the Communist bloc. Another outcome of World War II was the emergence of the state of Israel on occupied Palestine, following the displacement of the indigenous population. The Western imperialist world helped the Zionists to expand their aggression in 1967 while the Communist world sided with the Arabs.

Since the end of the war and the creation of the two major blocs, the world has been witnessing an unchanging status quo, but suddenly in the past year things began to change. This was brought about mainly because the Soviet Union recoiled and drew inward to deal with its own internal problems, abandoning the course of its struggle with the West. It has become clear that the United States is assuming the upper hand in the world political arena.

"The Arab countries in general and the ACC members in particular should extend total support for Jordan in its endeavours to deal with the developments in the region and threats by irresponsible elements which are trying to gamble with the Middle East's security and safety by following a deceitful mirage and false illusions," Mubarak said.

Following are major excerpts from the president's speech: "We want to make it clear to such elements that we are aware of the fact that there is a pan-Arab and international commitment to protect Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to ensure its positive role in the peace process."

The first year in the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) life was dedicated to laying down the foundations and the basic frameworks for coordination and cooperation among the four countries. The first year witnessed many meetings and fruitful achievements.

As we enter the second year with this meeting in Amman, we hope to pursue the march along the course that would help us attain our objectives. We have deep confidence in the endeavours of King Hussein and the other leaders to motivate our actions to continue the efforts with more determination to achieve further progress.

"We meet in Amman with great national hopes, on top of which is the hope that we can unite our aspirations for the coming year. We meet in Amman where we can see the lights of holy Jerusalem, and where we send our greetings to the Palestinian people from close. We can see the lights of Jerusalem from Baghdad with the eyes of a people with deep faith in their religion and in their ability to work in unity to recover our usurped lands and liberate our occupied territories."

We hope that the steps taken in the past year and the agreements concluded by the ACC countries will make themselves felt by the people in the four countries who should benefit from these gains so that their enthusiasm can be enhanced and their confidence in the ACC can increase.

We can, however, predict that the world will find a way to fill the gap that emerged as a result of these recent developments. As the end of the last war brought about the emergence of the two superpowers, the coming stage is bound to crystallise a new major force represented by Europe and Japan. We believe that the United States will lose part of its own power especially with the demise of slogans which it used on Europe and Japan and the rest of the world warning them of the looming danger of Communism and the influence of the Soviet Union. The United States is bound to lose part of its power equal to its retreat from confrontation with Moscow.

But on the whole, we see America capable of maintaining its influence in the world arena at least for the coming five years until the new world forces materialise.

"The Gulf region has not known peace yet and we should help transform the present ceasefire into a total peace and an end to the state of no-war-no-peace between Iran and Iraq. We should reiterate our total support for Iraq's initiative to end the war in all its forms so that all peoples in the region can live in peace and security."

"The Arabs should end the vicious circle and the tragic situation and devastation by doubling efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement in Lebanon."

Although much has been achieved in the first year of the bloc's existence, the road is long towards further integration."

Since the major advocate of the Arabs in their conflict with the Zionists (i.e. the Soviet Union) has now removed itself from the field until further notice and since the Zionist lobby in the United States continues to enjoy full power over Washington's policies, then the Arabs should take into account that Israel might, at any time, decide to commit new foolish adventures especially within the coming five years. This is a serious possibility which could come about through direct encouragement from the United States or through hints to the Jewish state.

But to counter all of this, the Arabs should display by word and deed meaningful and real solidarity which can be very effective. The Arabs ought to form a clear policy with concepts for ensuring the security of their regional existence and their future in all their undertakings and attitudes towards the neighbouring foreign

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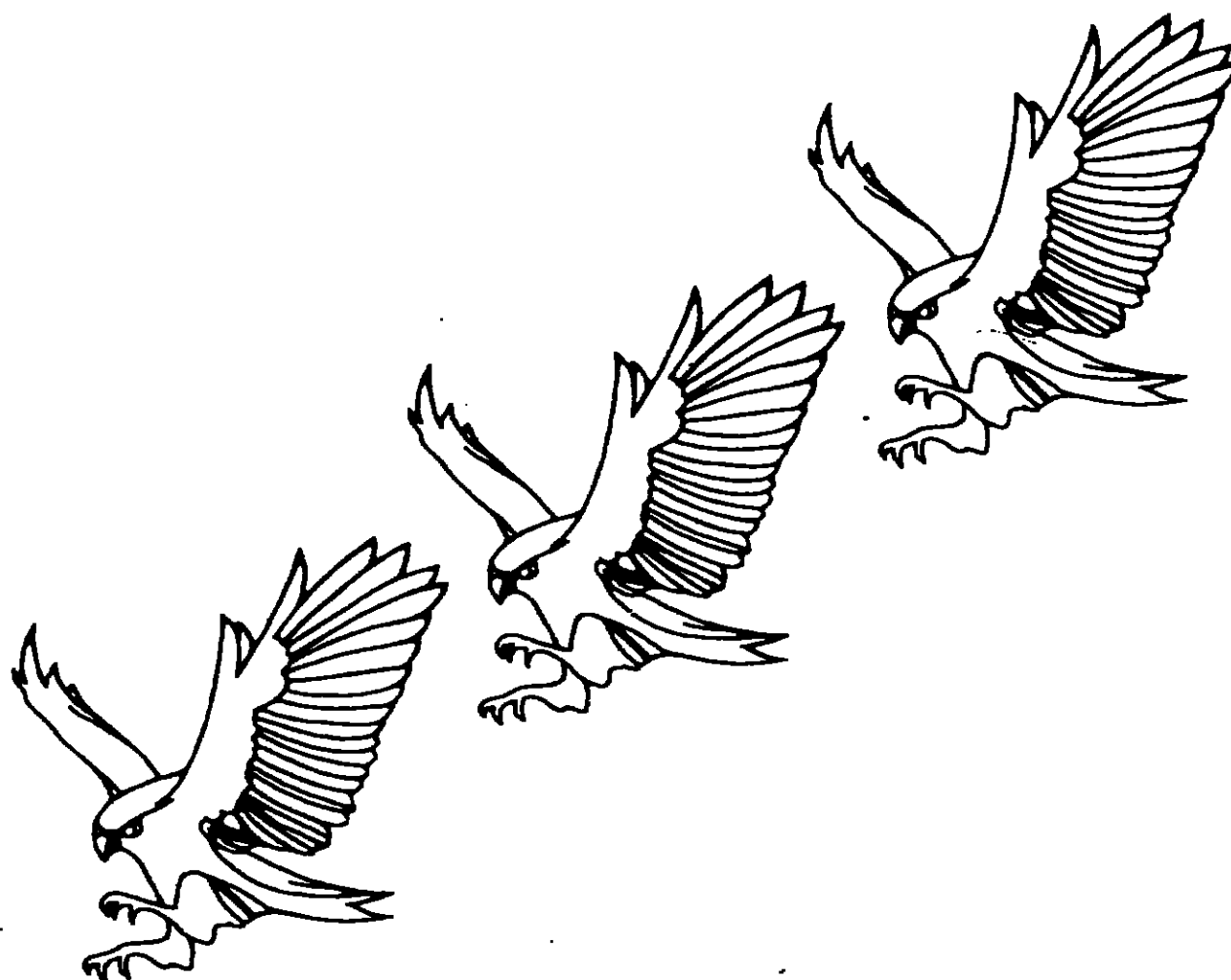
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A map of the Caribbean region. The United States (US) is labeled in the north, Mexico in the west, and Venezuela in the south. The Caribbean Sea is labeled in the center. The Pacific Ocean is labeled in the southwest. A small inset map shows the location of the Caribbean Sea within the larger context of the Americas. A large, stylized, handwritten-style text 'STAY ON TOP' is overlaid on the bottom right of the map.

ACC moves on to building stage; Jordan will defend Arab Nation

The following is the full text of the address made by His Majesty King Hussein at the opening session of the ACC summit, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1990.

His Excellency, our brother Ali Abdullah Saleh,
His Excellency, our brother Saddam Hussein,
His Excellency, our brother Mohammed Hosni Mubarak,

I greet you in the true Arab spirit and welcome you most sincerely to Jordan, your Arab home that is firm in its loyalty and faithful in its commitment to the Arab Nation and people.

It is our good fortune and a source of hope and optimism that this summit should coincide with the holy anniversary of Isra' and Mi'raj. You have come to Amman, within sight of the precious captive city of Jerusalem, where all hearts have been joined in faith and all souls united in love and harmony since the pact of Omar established the noble basis of this union. Since that pact, we presented to the world a model of a nation devoted to the one God, purified by its worship of him.

Muslims and Christians, in their mosques and churches were enfolded by a national bond that will always be their source of strength and security as they face their challenges and build their future. You are with us in Amman today, within view of the first of the two qiblas and the third of the holy harams, as well as the churches of Nativity and Holy Sepulchre; where the name of God touches the heart before it echoes in the ear; and where the courageous Palestinian national uprising, the intifada, sees a source of its strength and steadfastness in ours, which we seek to build in order to regain our right and protect our dignity. This summit also coincides with another cherished occasion, the first anniversary of founding the Arab Cooperation Council. In these precious moments, I find it difficult to express to you what lies in our hearts and minds. I find it uneasy to welcome you when you are in your own home, among your own family, as we were earlier among our brothers in Egypt and Iraq, and in Yemen, whose steps towards unity we have followed with happiness and optimism. It is our common belief that every step towards unity brings us closer to fulfilling our dream, and renews our hope to realise it. Therefore, I consider it my happy duty to bless the efforts of our Yemeni brothers and to wish them all success in their undertaking, which is as much our ambition as it is that of the one people of Yemen.

Brother Presidents, Today we stand together on Jordanian soil, in this Arab realm, with hearts united by affection, minds sharpened by awareness, and strong arms that have undertaken joint Arab action for the better of our peoples and our Arab Nation. In the first year since the establishment of the ACC, we laid the ground-work for cooperation and complementarity. I thank God for guiding us to this approach and helping us to start building our council with care and awareness.

One, to be part of these historic developments and employ them to enhance its existence, stability, and growth, or, two, to be on the periphery of these developments, and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded without having gained any benefit from these developments for the Arab land and people. A new world order is emerging, whose most prominent features are the emphasis on economic and political groupings, and the new relationship between countries of the North, based on stability and progress instead of hegemony and the arms race.

Consequently, this summit which we hold today is our first opportunity to affirm our deep understanding of world events. This understanding should be translated into action that earns the respect of others and reflects our self-respect and concern for our existence and future. If we do not define our role in the world it will be defined for us by others. This is the task which our council

We now start our second year with optimism and eagerness, but also with serenity and resolve to achieve our goals. The road before us is clearly marked, our objectives are well defined, and we shall achieve them through our determination and diligence, by the help of God, and with his guidance.

Brother Presidents,

The establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council last February was the product of a common awareness, developed and intensified by our concern for the present and future of our peoples, which are part of the present and future of the Arab Nation. In the first year we reached a series of agreements that define the framework of our common action. Now, as we enter the second year, we are hopeful and determined to translate these achievements into a reality that brings many benefits to our peoples, and confirms by practice the seriousness that guided our first steps. Therefore, I am confident that, having laid the foundation, we are now able to proceed to the building stage, in all fields of cooperation and complementarity.

The events that are now taking place in the world, the end of the cold war, and the development of new and surprising realities, impose on us a vital responsibility to our countries and future generations. There are those who want our region, our nation, and our people to be on the periphery of the movement of history. It is our responsibility to intensify and vitalise our work within the council, to make it clear to others that we can be neither broken nor disregarded; that our cause, concerns and ambitions cannot be ignored; and that we are not to be treated with condescension. You are aware that the end of the cold war may make our countries and peoples part of an accord between economic groupings that already exist, or others that are still forming. Unless the great work we have started substantiates our active and effective presence, grave dangers will come our way, threatening the very existence of our nation. The Arab Nation now faces two options:

One, to be part of these historic developments and employ them to enhance its existence, stability, and growth, or, two, to be on the periphery of these developments, and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded without having gained any benefit from these developments for the Arab land and people. A new world order is emerging, whose most prominent features are the emphasis on economic and political groupings, and the new relationship between countries of the North, based on stability and progress instead of hegemony and the arms race.

Consequently, this summit which we hold today is our first opportunity to affirm our deep understanding of world events. This understanding should be translated into action that earns the respect of others and reflects our self-respect and concern for our existence and future. If we do not define our role in the world it will be defined for us by others. This is the task which our council

must set for itself, after a year of deliberation and coordination which culminated in the agreements reached by the ministerial committees and the ministerial commission.

At this point, I should register our deep appreciation for the Republic of Iraq for hosting our founding summit, for our brother Saddam Hussein for chairing the first session of the higher commission, and for our brother Taha Yassin Ramadan for heading the ministerial commission. Iraq has played a major part in bringing us to the present stage, where this summit will be the first step towards realising our aspirations and fulfilling the great hopes which the people of our four countries place on the Arab Cooperation Council.

We meet today with much to deliberate on, and a great deal to accomplish. On the eastern front of our nation, the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran remains at the starting point. Fighting has stopped, but peace has not come yet. The continuation of the status quo is neither beneficial to Iraq, nor to Iran, nor to the region as a whole. The continuation of the ceasefire in its present form prevents both countries from directing themselves fully towards construction and development and making a substantial contribution to the establishment of just peace and stability in our region. Iraq has responded positively to all the peace initiatives that sought sincerely to bring the war with Iran to a just conclusion. Iraq also launched many initiatives of its own, the most recent of which was that of our brother, President Saddam Hussein, which reflected Iraq's serious desire for peace. Unfortunately, these initiatives have not met a favourable response from the other side, and the war has yet to reach the just conclusion that we all hope for, particularly in relation to the most pressing humanitarian issue involved, that of the prisoners of war.

The return to peace and good neighbourliness to this part of our region would leave no excuse or pretext for foreign armed pre-

sence in the heart of the Arab and Islamic world, a presence that threatens us all and prevents us from devoting all our efforts to achieve development and progress. This normalisation of relations would enable us to maintain our inner strength that deters our enemies and defeats their sinister designs against the Arab order and the Islamic nation.

In Lebanon, strife persists despite the good offices and efforts of the Arab tripartite higher committee to help Lebanon regain its unity and sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. This leaves the situation in Lebanon explosive and jeopardises, not only the existence of Lebanon, but also the whole Arab order.

And then came the waves of Jewish immigrants to add a new and most dangerous dimension that puts us all against an organised act of aggression that targets all Palestinian soil, and carries the seeds of a new expansionist aggression threatening this part of the Arab World. I warned of this danger before it had materialised, and I repeat my warning now that it has begun to do so. It does not threaten my country alone, but also the depth of the Arab Nation. It jeopardises Arab security and constitutes an obstacle to peace, as well as a new blow against the intifada and the legitimate Palestinian people's struggle to gain their liberty and independence on their national soil.

I pause here to refer to Israel's clamour, attempting to embed in people's minds its opposition to any non-Jordanian military presence on the Arab soil of Jordan, the longest line of confrontation with Israel, and the Arab Nation's tenacious forward position against aggression and expansionism.

What is worth contemplating is the intensification of the Israeli campaign against Jordan at a time when we suffer a reduction in our capabilities and resources, and face tremendous difficulties in securing the minimum that allows us to defend ourselves and the integrity of the Arab Nation. All this, while Israel receives unlimited support and assistance

from many in the world, particularly, aid on a regular and growing basis from the most powerful nation, without any effort, decline, or interruption.

Everyone without exception realises the negative effects of the drop in our resources, and its direct consequences on our steadfast people in the occupied territories because of the devaluation of the Jordan dinar.

Nevertheless, we shall remain as our nation has always known us, forbearing, resolute, and steadfast in its vanguard, ready to defend our country and the Arab Nation. Suffice it for this country to have the honour of defending our Arab Nation and contain the first blow of aggression when it comes, to the best of our ability.

I should not forget to express, at this point, our gratitude and appreciation to our brothers who, prompted by their sense of nationalism, stood by us, and helped us overcome part of our financial and economic difficulties.

These issues are too important for us not to keep space with them and formulate a united national stand towards them. The prime task of our council is to build; by consolidating and protecting what we build are part of the Arab effort to face the dangers represented by each one of these causes.

The evolving situation in the world requires a serious Arab stand. I am confident that you share my hope that our summit will prove part of the greater effort, which requires a different type of examination and preparation, both in intensity and comprehensiveness, so we can arrive at a united and effective national stand that makes our nation capable of dealing with the new developments and able to face its challenges.

Brother Presidents, Permit me, once again, to welcome you to your country, among your people, hoping that our summit will be successful in realising our hopes and those of our peoples.

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

ACC summit concludes

(Continued from page 1)

"since I realise the difficulty in doing this, I find it my duty to emphasise that your presence here has been of great pleasure for us, and we are happy to have reached the common vision we have in jointly understanding regional and international developments."

The political statement issued at the end of the summit did not mention the issue of the U.S. naval presence in the Arabian Gulf which President Hussein attacked in his speech to the summit, but it stressed common political ground on which the four leaders agreed. The statement said the four leaders agree that both the United States and the Soviet Union "bear a special responsibility" towards the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine and that both superpowers should work to-

wards halting the flow of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

It reaffirmed the ACC countries' support for the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independent statehood. It reiterated the widely-supported Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Addressing the final session, the King said the formation of the council one year ago "came just in time to deal with the developments in the Arab region and international scene."

The King said during their talks Saturday, the ACC leaders underlined the importance of intensifying efforts at all levels to open the way for the council's members to pool their resources and achieve full integration "at a

time when the countries of the world are joining forces and eliminating all boundaries to form a united power."

"The ACC countries enjoy great potential which can be exploited to ensure a better future for their people," the King said. But, he added, "nothing short of integration and full cooperation can help the Arab masses achieve their objectives."

"The world can look to us only from the angle we choose for ourselves and cannot deal with our countries with respect, confidence and seriousness unless we adopted this attitude among ourselves," said the King, adding that the Amman summit had enhanced the self-confidence of the council members.

Three guest leaders were attending an official dinner hosted by the King in their honour at the Hashemiyah Palace last night. They are expected to leave for home today.

Egypt

(Continued from page 1)
that we can have a tripartite meeting followed by an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue."

He said Egypt believed that the United States was extending all efforts to maintain the peace process.

In answer to a question on the status of relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Baz said: "It is a very cordial relationship; we coordinate, we contact and consult to exchange information and views... the relationship is good."

Both Abdul Meguid and Baz described the Amman ACC summit as very successful. "Our evaluation is that this session of the ACC has been a very productive one and more than positive," Baz said.

Baz attributed the shortening of the two-day summit to one day to proper preparations prior to the holding of the summit.

Political statement
(Continued from page 1)

conflict. The four leaders expressed support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and hailed its efforts to advance the peace process. They stressed that the main obstacle in the path towards peace was Israel's intransigence.

The four leaders called for intensified efforts to arrive at a permanent and total end to the Gulf conflict between Iraq and Iran and also to the ordeal of prisoners of war held by both sides.

The four leaders reiterated their support for Iraq's endeavours to safeguard its territory and sovereignty and to protect its historic rights in the Shatt Al Arab waterway. They said there was an urgent need to remove all war debris from the waterway under United Nations auspices and clear the way for the resumption of international navigation.

The four leaders expressed their appreciation for efforts being exerted by the three-member Arab League committee to end the tragedy in Lebanon in a manner that would ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The four leaders called for withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and demanded that the international community exercise pressure on Israel to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 by withdrawing its forces from South Lebanon and help the legitimate Lebanese authorities to assume complete control of Lebanese territory.

The four leaders discussed the situation of Arab water resources and decided to give the subject the attention it deserves based on international law and in a way that will guarantee Arab rights and keep good neighbourliness.

The four leaders reviewed the situation in the Red Sea and stressed necessity of peace, stability and security, away from international and regional conflicts, in the area.

The four leaders expressed their delight over the release of black African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and congratulated the people of South Africa for their struggle against apartheid. They also congratulated the people of Namibia on their independence after a long struggle and called for promoting Arab-African relations.

Iraq assails U.S.

(Continued from page 3)

"We do not mean to adopt a hostile attitude towards the United States in advance based purely on mere guesses as to what could happen in the future. We want to stress that the Arabs want to see peace and justice prevailing around the world. The Arabs want to establish friendly relations with all countries that respect friendship, be it the United States or others. It is therefore natural for the Arabs to deal realistically with the new American attitude brought about by Moscow's abandonment of its former position."

However, the United States should respect the Arabs and their rights and should refrain from interfering in their internal affairs and should not forget that the Arab Nation is a great nation that led the world in the field of knowledge. Other than this, there can be no room for friendship neither can there be any respect from one side alone. There can be no regard to the interests and the rights of any party without a reciprocal measure to safeguard Arab interests and Arab dignity and Arab options and Arab national security.

In the face of this situation what can the Arabs do?

The Zionists had been in the field, benefitting from Arab failures in the past and upsetting all Arab plans. The Zionists have focused attention on the United States to involve its strategies in a manner that can serve Israel's purpose after discovering that this was not possible to achieve in the European arena.

The United States, on the other hand, has accepted a congruence of interest and joint action with Zionism.

Despite the grave damage and harm done by Washington to the Arabs through its alliance with the Zionists, some of the Arabs had been apprehensive of the Soviet Union and afraid of Communism. Other factors had also delayed joint and influential Arab action vis-a-vis American policies, prompting Washington to disregard all Arab stands.

The Arab Nation's realisation for the need for solidarity on a firm basis of common national interests and proper definition of Arab interests and a definition of elements that threaten their stability and their security and adoption of a strong stand that could stop hostile force from encroaching on their rights, can form a realistic basis for new Arab relations with the United States and other nations. The Arabs want to base their relations with the world on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and respect for Arab national security.

Israel has been in the practice of taking the initiatives in areas ignored by the Arabs who sometimes rallied to meet the challenge, only to lose momentum for action after a while.

This attitude has failed to come up to the level of Zionist political, informational and other forms of challenge. Therefore, we have seen only witnessed Arab action in word rather than deed.

Experience has taught us that one should not attack an enemy in a specific field of that enemy's own choice, and taught us also that by seeming interested in that the enemy's plans we can launch a successful attack on the enemy's interests in other areas. The question now is how to approach this

situation and weaken our enemies' influence directed against us, and how can we exploit our collective financial, economic, political and informational potential to achieve our objectives.

It has been proved that the Arabs have the power to influence others when they put their real mind to it. This is represented for instance in the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian joint warning in 1980 to countries to refrain from transferring their embassies to Jerusalem, which yielded very favourable results.

The prolonged presence of United States fleets in the Gulf waters has become of paramount significance for the Americans, Japan and the Eastern European countries in view of the recent developments and oil market prospects. The Gulf area could become the most important spot in world affairs. Any nation that can maintain most influence in the Gulf is bound to wield the most powerful influence as a superpower. This means that the Gulf region could fall under American power, which could in the future, impose on the oil countries an oil production quota or a price index to serve Washington's interests.

Therefore, one can deduce that that peace is far off from the Middle East, at least from the American point of view, simply because Washington will be requiring an aggressive and not a peaceful Israel to help serve American interests.

Peace would be far off from Iraq and Iran unless Tehran can respond with responsibility to all the peace overtures offered by Iraq. Peace could be endangered as a result of an Arab-Arab war, and conflicts between the Arabs and their neighbours of a kind that cannot be controlled unless the principle of non-interference in internal affairs has been established and unless military power is avoided in dealings Arab states and unless the Arabs reach clear agreements on pan-Arab cooperation in economic, political and other fields to help establish tranquility and harmony.

Any world power has its weak points. America was forced to withdraw its forces from Lebanon only because it suffered from a single attack by national Lebanese forces. The United States has shown hesitation and frustration on several occasions and has suffered losses as a result of its interference in the affairs of other countries like Panama.

For Israel, which used to be called the invincible power, it suffered defeats at the hands of the Palestinian and Lebanese national forces in 1982, and in the 1973 crossing of the Suez Canal. But, perhaps the most important weapon that had its effect on the world was the collective Arab decision to use the oil weapon in the 1973 war.

As Israel uses certain lobbies to influence the American administration, the Arabs can exploit their billions of dollars in America and the West to serve Arab goals. The Arabs can, if they want, transfer part of their funds to the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, areas which can be more profitable than the West.

The weakness of the Arab Nation lies in the lack of self-confidence and lack of concentration on the elements of power. United we stand, but divided we fall. Let this be our slogan and our motto so that we can go along together towards the achievement of further progress.

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Volvo, Renault form 'alliance'

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Sweden's car maker Volvo and Renault, the French state-owned automotive concern, joined forces Friday in the face of cut-throat global competition.

The move created the world's No. 1 truck manufacturer and one of the largest auto conglomerates in the world.

Under a complicated 23 billion French franc (\$4.1 billion) deal, the companies took a 45 per cent interest in their respective truck and bus divisions, while Renault and Volvo exchanged 25 per cent of shares in their passenger car operations.

Moreover, Renault will take a 10-per cent interest in A.B. Volvo, the parent company of the Swedish industrial giant, a deal that will involve an additional 4 billion francs (\$714 million).

The deal is subject to French government approval, but Raymond Levy, Renault's chief executive officer, said that "I wouldn't be here if I hadn't been sure about the position of my government."

The announcement, made during a news conference in the Dutch capital, capped a year of negotiations between the two companies, whose sales have been under pressure in an increasingly competitive world market.

Volvo has been suffering from the slump in European auto sales

on the previously profitable U.S. market, while Renault is rapidly losing ground to the Japanese at the top end of the market.

Volvo President, Pehr Gyllenhammar told reporters that the move would give the companies "the size, breadth and depth well above the critical mass necessary to survive in this fiercely competitive industry."

Describing the cooperation structure as "an alliance, not a merger or an acquisition," Gyllenhammar said the two companies would closely work together in product development, purchasing raw materials and parts, and production.

But he stressed that both Volvo and Renault would "maintain their integrity" and their respective headquarters in Goteborg, Sweden, and Paris.

"The agreement does not infringe on the integrity of the names and makes" of Volvo's and Renault's product lines, Gyllenhammar said, adding that worldwide, dealer networks and marketing operations would remain separate.

But he did not rule out the eventual development of a joint new model.

The Swedish-French agreement was expected to have far-reaching consequences for the auto market in the European Community (EC).

In Brussels, the EC Commission,



A Volvo assembly plant (file photo).

sion, the Community's executive body, said it would review the linkup to assess its impact on competition in the EC motor vehicle market.

A commission spokesman said it had been told informally several months ago that talks were under way between Renault and Volvo.

Under new EC law, that takes effect Sept. 21, major mergers in the 12-nation Community must be submitted to the commission for prior approval.

Friday's deal creates an auto conglomerate good for about two million units a year, or about 20 per cent of the European market,

analysts said. The combination would produce more than 140,000 trucks, beating the current No. 1 in that field, Daimler Benz of West Germany, by a margin of some 25,000 units.

In 1988, the latest year for which complete figures were available, Renault more than doubled its net profit to 8.913 billion francs (\$1.59 billion) from 3.689 billion (\$658 million) the year before.

Last year, the French company manufactured more than 1.6 million passenger cars and 80,250 trucks.

Volvo's latest accounts showed

an operating profit of 4.06 billion Swedish crowns (\$676 million) for the first nine months of 1989, down 14 per cent from the corresponding period a year earlier. However, this figure excluded 750 million crowns (\$125 million).

In 1988, the Swedish company's car sales were down by four per cent, totalling 414,000 cars. In the same year, truck sales were up 25 per cent to 60,200 units.

Prior to Friday's announcement, trade in Volvo stock was suspended at both the Paris and the Stockholm bourses. Renault, as a French government agency, has no publicly traded shares.

Tunisia sees rosy future for olive oil

TUNIS (R) — A growing worldwide appetite for olive oil will boost sales of Tunisia's main farm export, the head of the state exporting organisation said Friday.

Abderrahman Silali also told Reuters he was confident that the European Community (EC) would renew Tunisia's export quota when it expires in October.

He said farmers were planting more than one million trees a year and production would rise from about 120,000 tonnes a year to 200,000 by the end of the century.

"The new factor is a worldwide increase in consumption, the U.S. market alone is growing at 15 to 20 per cent a year. We're moving from a surplus situation to a shortage," he said.

Olive oil has been the backbone of Tunisia's agricultural exports since at least Roman times. It earns the country up to \$80 million a year in foreign currency.

The European Community guarantees to import 46,000 tonnes a year on preferential terms under an agreement reached in 1985 as Spain and Portugal prepared to join the Community.

EC officials say the arrangement costs the Community 40 million ECUs (\$48 million) a year because the Common Agricultural Fund has to subsidise exports of an equivalent amount to other countries.

"Spain and Italy will have objections to renewal but then there's the overall consideration of whether the Community can afford to cause problems for

Tunisia," a European diplomat said.

France, Spain and Italy are worried that economic problems in Northern Africa could lead to political instability and an increase in illegal immigration from the Maghreb states.

Silali said negotiations on a new deal would start in April. "It will be renewed. I'm sure of it," he added.

He said that if he had the choice he would prefer the European Community to abolish both the quota and its export subsidies at the same time so Tunisia could compete freely with Spain, the world's largest producer and exporter.

Tunisia is the world's fourth producer, and because of its relatively small population, the second largest exporter.

Silali said one problem he faced was shortage of money to promote Tunisian oil abroad. His office spends \$1 million a year on advertising but Silali said: "That's peanuts. One Italian company I know of is spending \$9 million."

But there were good export opportunities in other North African states, which together import one million tonnes of vegetable oils a year. Libya is already an important customer, although it has millions of olive trees of its own.

Algeria, Libya, Mauritania,

Morocco and Tunisia last year formed the Arab Maghreb Union, which should eventually become a North African common market.

Silali said that as a result of higher producer prices in Tunisia, farmers had brought almost all the country's 55 million trees back into production and the cost of a tree had tripled since 1984. "In fact, it's virtually impossible to find anyone willing to sell these days," he said.

Floods in the south and centre of Tunisia last month would not affect this year's harvest and, by replenishing underground water reserves, would lead to higher output in future, he added.

Balco reports increased aluminium sales in 1989

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain Saudi Aluminium Marketing Co BSC (Balco) has said it sold 193,438 tonnes of aluminium worth \$408 million in 1989, 16 per cent up over the previous year.

Balco, which handles aluminium sales for the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian governments, said 166, 530 tonnes of aluminium worth \$359.5 million were sold in 1988.

Sales by Balco, owned jointly by the Bahrain government and the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), went to 78

companies in 29 countries. Chairman Isa Ibn Abdullah Al Khalifa said the company, which markets 80 per cent of Bahrain aluminium BSC (Alba) production, received 160,200 tonnes of Alba's production in 1989 against 141,698 tonnes in 1988.

Some 56.6 per cent of Balco's aluminium went to the Middle East, followed by the Far East with 14 per cent, India 6.8 per cent, Europe 3.6 per cent, South East Asia three per cent and others 16 per cent.

Sheikh Isa said Balco resumed

exporting aluminium to Baghdad after a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988. Iraq was buying 40,000 tonnes annually.

He said Balco's stake in Alba production would rise by 235,000 tonnes in 1992.

Alba, jointly owned by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and West Germany's Breton Investment Fund, aims to spend \$1.4 billion to more than double annual production capacity to 460,000 tonnes.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Djibouti, S. Yemen sign agreements

DJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti and South Yemen, which face each other across the southern entrance to the Red Sea, signed a series of cooperation agreements Friday. The agreements, including one for cooperation between the rival commercial ports of Djibouti and Aden, were signed at the end of a two-day visit to Djibouti by South Yemen Prime Minister Yasin Said No'man. Djibouti, which became independent from France in 1977, harbours a major French naval and air base while South Yemen, a former British colony, has close military and political links with the Soviet Union. The two countries issued a joint communique expressing their determination to reduce tension in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa and work for security, peace and stability in the region. The rapprochement between Djibouti and South Yemen follows recent moves towards political and economic liberalisation in Aden and the opening of talks on reunification between radical South Yemen and the conservative North.

Iran reopens gas refinery, oil plant

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Friday reopened a gas refinery and a lubricant production plant after repairing damage caused in the Gulf war with Iraq. The Iranian news agency IRNA said a motor oil production unit at Abadan refinery with an annual output of 517,000 barrels came on stream after damage from Iraqi attacks was repaired at a cost of \$9.5 million. The plant would reduce imports of motor oil by 46 per cent, saving Iran \$32 million a year, IRNA said. Tehran radio said the third unit of Bidboland gas refinery began operations after repairs costing 3.35 billion riyals, (\$48 million) over the past eight months. It said the refinery, which it called the hub of Iran's gas industry, now operated at its full capacity of 15 million cubic metres per day. The Abadan oil refinery, once the world's biggest, began processing 130,000 barrels per day (b/d) last April after partial repair of war damage. Iran says it has plans to boost capacity at the plant on the border with Iraq to 380,000 b/d.

Brazilian inflation jumps 73%

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil, on the eve of its long carnival weekend, said inflation in February hit a record 72.78 per cent, which was still slightly lower than many expected. The prior record, 70.28 per cent, was set in January 1989. February inflation had widely been expected to hit about 75 per cent. The February figure brings inflation for the last 12 months to 2,751 per cent. The Federal Statistics Institute attributed the increase in inflation to uncertainty over the economic policies to be implemented by President-elect Fernando Collor De Mello, who takes office March 15. Many businesses, fearing the new government might impose a price freeze, have been rushing to raise their prices. The official agency also said inflation was fuelled by the government's own state companies increasing their prices from mid-January to mid-February at a level well over official inflation. Collor, who has said his priority is to combat inflation, predicted that March's inflation rate would be "something appearing like the inflation of the last few months." January inflation was 56.11 per cent.

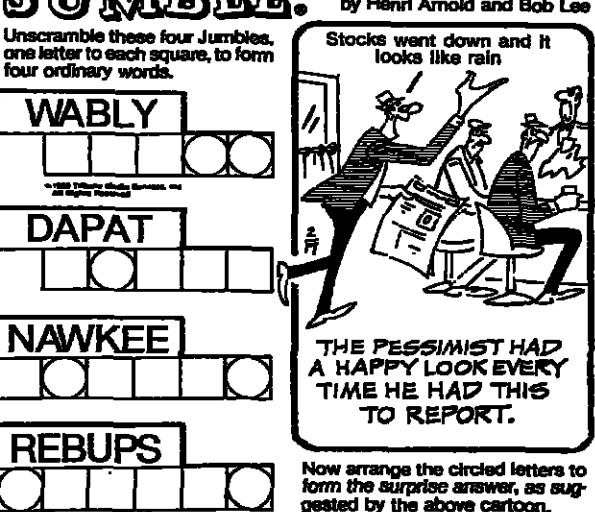
AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, February 24, 1990 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	French franc	117.9 118.6
Pound Sterling	1144.3	1151.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	455.5 458.2
Deutsche mark	399.0	401.4	Dutch guilder	354.4 356.5
Swiss franc	454.4	457.1	Swedish crown	109.4 110.5
			Italian lire (for 100)	34.0 34.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	191.8 193.0

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TONIC JOINT APICE DISARM
Answer: Some people who think they're "operating" in the stock market are sometimes this "OPERATED ON"

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Feb. 17, '90 and ending Wednesday Feb. 21, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	4264	14583	3.410	3.410	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	25765	42149	1.700	1.590	1.000
Housing Bank	3200	7538	2.520	2.350	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	26500	94070	3.750	3.380	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	74	1080	14.650	14.600	5.000
Arab Bank	1550	398770	261.000	254.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	5062	13173	2.600	2.600	1.000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan)	863	1471	1.370	1.750	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	1800	6144	3.600	3.390	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	83035	196428	2.410	2.300	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	11269	27463	2.480	2.430	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	100	1725	17.500	17.000	2.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	6650	6318	0.970	0.940	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	51565	90552	1.810	1.740	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1000	2500	2.500	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	2770	7023	2.370	2.600	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	3264	4406	1.350	1.350	1.000
Jensen Insurance	100	175	1.720	1.750	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahiya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Eagle Insurance	758	1758	2.310	2.320	1.000
Universal Insurance	11425	12523	1.070	1.080	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	530	997	1.840	1.930	1.000
Inns for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	108157	100613	0.950	0.890	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	290062	200676	0.670	0.660	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	311407	237785	0.650	0.830	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	547760	361066	1.100	1.160	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	3926	5575	1.420	1.400	1.000
Irish District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	91038	146279	1.590	1.600	1.000
Hotels and Tourist	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commerce Hotels	569395	467914	0.710	0.800	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	23950	61551	2.540	2.570	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	500	1000	2.000	2.000	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	39328	67688	1.660	1.680	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	49427	252664	5.170	4.940	1.000
Jordan Medical Corporation	2170	2483	1.220	1.100	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	126790	398766	3.130	3.170	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	241	1109	4.600	4.600	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intac)	48454	116843	2.280	2.360	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	12295	114841	7.800	8.650	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	86750	156113	2.100	2.030	1.000
Aladin Industries	11400	36248	3.180	3.160	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	200004	595020	2.890	2.980	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1000	5700	6.000	5.700	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	500	1425	2.970	2.850	1.000
Chemical Industries	1300	4211	3.410	3.110	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	29969	55418	1.920	1.830	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	5160	21870	4.180	4.250	1.000
National Steel Industries	6909	18265	2.530	2.640	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	18400	102709	5.450	5.720	5.000
General Mining	907	1645	1.820	1.800	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4176	33517	8.000	8.120	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Industries	63645	87225	1.410	1.320	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	11050	8084	0.700	0.740	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	15446	183800	1.010	0.910	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	2500	8750	3.600	3.500	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	5052	67605	1.240	1.310	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	7100	23623	3.290	3.270	1.000
Rafin Industrial for Plastic Bags	700	2285	3.250	3.300	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1044	10295	9.950	10.000	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	80090	257422	2.990	3.340	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Wooden Industries	5225	8451	1.600	1.620	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Misc Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	63000	145281	2.380	2.290	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	92130	478223	5.000	5.250	1.000
Arab Spinning & Weaving	38827	96909	2.580	2.430	1.000
Jordan Sulphur Chemicals	122563	361699	2.850	2.930	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	71923	82688	1.160	1.130	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	94650	138090	1.480	1.410	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	112670	73673	0.660	0.630	1.000
National Quarry	24650	29754	1.200	1.170	1.000
Grand total	2,893,214	6,562,977			

Peanuts

FEBRUARY 25
Trading
Financial Markets
(many)
Closing
Price
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0 1.590
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Genscher: Uncertainty over Polish border issue hindering unification

WEST BERLIN (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says uncertainty over Bonn's stance regarding Poland's Western border is hindering German unification, and has called for Germany to reject any claims to Polish territory.

Poland's state news agency (PAP) said that Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki called Kohl Friday evening.

"The prime minister presented to the chancellor Poland's position on the problem connected with the process of unification of Germany and security of their neighbours," PAP said.

Mazowiecki stepped up the pressure on the border issue this week by calling on the two Germanys to sign a peace treaty guaranteeing Poland's post-World War II boundaries.

Kohl's spokesman said that only the government of a united Germany can reject claims to what is now Poland, leading to an apparent difference of opinion with the Foreign Ministry.

German conservatives still claim part of modern-day Poland. About one-third of modern-day Poland was part of the Third Reich, and was turned over to Poland after the Nazi defeat.

Many agree with Genscher in arguing that questions about Bonn's stance regarding Polish

territory stand in the way of joining the two German states. The West German government is already positioning itself for the expected merger, although some say Kohl has been trying to move too quickly.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble told U.S. officials that the East German's freely elected parliament may opt for immediate unification, after being sworn in following elections on March 18.

"It is conceivable that there will be no more (East German) government after March 18," the conservative Bonn daily newspaper Die Welt quoted him as telling officials in Washington. He said it was due to the expected splintering of the new parliament.

Several recent polls, however, have indicated East Germany's Social Democrats will win more than 50 per cent of the vote.

East Germany's economic crisis has accelerated in recent weeks, forcing the government to end food subsidies and raising fears that the nation is on the

verge of economic collapse.

One of the most critical decisions affecting the pace and manner of unification will be the rate at which the East German mark is made convertible for the powerful West German currency in a monetary union joining the currencies.

A 1-to-1 conversion rate would likely lead to rampant inflation, economists say.

Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel Friday discounted a newspaper report contending that the West German government had decided on the 1-to-1 rate.

Vogel said that the committee studying economic union is still in the "fact-finding stage" and has come up with no firm conclusions.

Genscher, the influential foreign minister of the centrist Free Democrats, has called for a clear stance regarding the Polish border.

"Uncertainty or a lack of obligation in this question hinders the unification of Germany," Genscher said in an interview with the Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung.

He said both countries should issue declarations rejecting claims to Polish territory after East Germany's elections on March 18.

"They could each do that separately and then later for all of

Germany," Genscher said, looking forward to the expected unification.

Thatcher: Unification moves in right direction

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday that moves by Europe to adjust to German unification were "going in the right direction."

"We are at the stage where we know what questions to ask," said Thatcher, speaking at a news conference with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who was making a one-day visit to London.

Thatcher was referring to an agreement this month for the four World War II allied powers and the two Germanys to agree on the external arrangements for unification, and for it to be considered jointly at a 35-nation East-West summit later this year.

Andreotti said he agreed with Thatcher's approach of seeking to keep the issue "within the framework of problems confronting NATO and the Helsinki Conference (the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe)."

Thatcher also announced that President Francesco Cossiga of Italy will make a state visit to Britain in October as the guest of Queen Elizabeth II.

U.N. adopts global drug programme

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Reflecting a sense of urgency in the war against drugs, the international community put the narcotics menace high on the world's agenda but failed to say where the money would come from.

After a four-day special session attended by some 50 cabinet-rank ministers, the U.N. General Assembly Friday adopted an ambitious plan designed to tackle every phase of the \$500 billion international drug trade.

"We resolve to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," the six-page declaration says.

The plan's recommendations to governments and international bodies cover all aspects of the drug trade: cultivation of the coca and poppy fields that provide the raw material for cocaine and heroin, processing, trafficking, demand, money laundering and the rehabilitation of addicts.

The United Nations is envisioned as having a central coordinating role in distributing information, drawing up technical and legal plans and conducting field projects in developing nations.

Nowhere is the cost of the proposals spelled out, though states are asked to consider the possibility of "using forfeited property and proceeds for activities to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking."

But at the moment there are only \$4 million allocated in annual U.N. budget, plus another \$65-70 million a year in voluntary contributions for the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFAC), which does field work.

"Like most of you I was struck by the limited resources provided for U.N. agencies involved in these matters," Assembly President Joseph Garba said.

Margaret Anstee, the British under-secretary general in charge of all U.N. drug activities, told a news conference the world body did not have enough funds to fulfil its current mandates on drug projects.

Forthcoming discussions in U.N. financial bodies "will be extremely important and for my money an indication of whether we really are being serious about this fight and the pivotal role of the United Nations," she said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Students beaten, arrested in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — About 200 student protesters demanding government reform ended a sit-in at the capital's Roman Catholic cathedral early Saturday, but were later detained and beaten by police. After the students came out of St. Paul's Cathedral, where they had been holed up for 10 hours, they were herded into police trucks and taken to the city's main police station. As the students emerged from the trucks, police could be seen beating them with truncheons. The students' cries filled the air. The students had begun their occupation of the cathedral Friday afternoon at about 3 p.m. (1500 GMT), the latest in a weeklong series of demonstrations against President Felix Houphouët-Boigny's conservative government.

Boat people attack screening process

HONG KONG (R) — A group of Vietnamese boat people who face deportation from Hong Kong mounted a high court battle Saturday which could delay or even halt the policy of forcible repatriation. Nguyen Ho, 30, launched the attack by challenging Hong Kong's screening process that bestows refugee status on a few and declares the majority to be illegal immigrants, his solicitor Robin Bridge said. Those screened out as illegal immigrants are kept in detention centres until the British Colony sends them back to Vietnam, against their will if necessary.

11 U.S. soldiers dead in 2 crashes

PANAMA CITY (R) — Eleven U.S. soldiers were killed in two U.S. army helicopter crashes in bad weather earlier this week, the U.S. Southern Command has said. Searchers found the second of the two helicopters Friday and all nine men on board the UH-1H Huey were dead, the Southern Command said. The first, an OH-58 observation helicopter, was found Thursday with both men aboard killed. "We don't have any indication it was anything other than the weather," a Southern Command spokesman said. The aircraft encountered thunderstorms while on a training mission Wednesday near Punta Diego, 80 kilometres southwest of the Atlantic Port city of Colon.

Smoking ban begins on U.S. flights

WASHINGTON (R) — Smoking will be banned on virtually all U.S. domestic airline flights beginning Sunday when a law passed by Congress last year goes into effect. The law bars smoking on all flights of under six hours within the United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Smoking will be allowed only on flights between Hawaii or Alaska and the other 48 states that are six hours or longer — about two dozen out of nearly 18,000 daily domestic flights. Some of these flights will also be made non-smoking runs by the airlines that fly them. The law does not apply to international routes but many U.S. airlines are voluntarily extending the smoking ban on flights between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. Flights within Canada are already smoke-free. Foreign airlines will have to follow the no-smoking rule on any of their flights between U.S. cities.

Anne tours Senegal refugee camps

BAKEL, Senegal (R) — Britain's Princess Anne, braving a sandstorm and stifling heat, briefly shared the plight of refugees in camps in northern Senegal bordering Mauritania. The princess listened to the stories of some of the 50,000 Mauritians who fled or were driven out of their country last year following ethnic riots in both West African nations. Senegal and mostly-Arab Mauritania severed diplomatic links in August after a border dispute stirred communal violence and a mass exodus of refugees across the River Senegal which forms their border. The 39-year-old princess is visiting West Africa as president of the London-based charity Save the Children Fund.

Bulgaria to abolish party organisations at workplace

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The Communist Party leadership has agreed to abolish party organisations in the workplace, a key demand of the democratic opposition, informed sources said Saturday.

At a closed-door meeting late Friday, the supreme council of the party proposed that the measure should be included in a new law on parties, sources in Sofia said.

The law is expected to be adopted at a session of the National Assembly, which begins on March 5, the sources said.

Talks between the Communists and the opposition, including the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and other political and social groups, were suspended on Feb. 12 because of a controversy over the party cells and other political demands.

The Communists' agreement in principle to give up their organisation in factories, enterprises and administrative units was welcomed by opposition representatives as a positive step.

"It is a good sign because the Communist Party understands that they must do something" to show their commitment to democratisation, said Alexander Karakachanov, a UDF member and president of the Bulgaria Greens.

Mandela faces leadership test over Natal violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela faces the biggest test of his leadership since release from life imprisonment when he tries Sunday to end a bloody inter-black feud in south Africa's Natal province.

Mandela, figurehead of the African National Congress (ANC), will also attempt to forge unity among anti-apartheid groups ahead of negotiations with the white minority government on a post-apartheid South Africa.

"Mandela's reputation for statesmanship and non-sectarian breadth of vision will be tested to the full tomorrow," commented the Star, the country's largest daily newspaper.

Mandela's speech at a rally in the Natal port city of Durban will be his second major address since being freed 13 days ago. It will deal with an 11-year-old rift between the two largest groups representing voteless blacks — the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Movement.

"The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of unity," Mandela said in a recent letter to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"I consider it a serious indictment against all of us that we are still unable to combine forces to stop the slaughter of so many innocent lives," he said.

Buthelezi says he and Mandela have remained friends despite the rift and welcomes his trip to Natal, home of the country's six

million Zulus.

"Let our tribute to him (Mandela) be the tribute he would most want — the tribute of black unity," Buthelezi said this week.

Both Inkatha, a powerful organisation supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the UDF, denounced by Pretoria as a Communist front, want to end apartheid but differ on tactics.

"Whether we're friends or foes, we are compelled to cooperate with each other in attempting to solve the problem," Mandela told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Friday.

He said the fighting was worsened by the involvement of criminals and what he called police intervention on the side of Inkatha — features of the unrest repeatedly confirmed by independent church investigations. Police deny the charge.

Mandela is due to address the rally at a Durban Stadium at about 1000 GMT before flying to Bloemfontein in Orange Free States province to address another rally.

On Tuesday Mandela flies to Zambia to meet the ANC's exiled leadership at its Lusaka headquarters and leaders of the Commonwealth and frontline states confronting South Africa.

Meanwhile Britain came under fire for relaxing sanctions against South Africa to reward the white minority government for its reforms and the release of Mandela.

Moscow prepares for new 'October Revolution'

MOSCOW (R) — Seventy-three years after the February Revolution brought down the tsars, Soviet authorities braced for a new surge of political activism unleashed by Kremlin reformers.

Big pro-reform rallies are planned for Sunday in cities and towns across the Soviet Union's three most important republics, including the giant Russian Federation.

Several old-line Communist Party leaders are expected to be swept from office in polls set for March 4 in Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

Adding to the pressure on the Kremlin, Lithuanians went to the polls Saturday to elect a parliament expected to move swiftly to restore the republic's pre-war independence.

And a large bloc of Latvian Communists opened a conference to study a possible break with Moscow and formation of a new party.

Activists have already dubbed their big pro-reform campaign "the February 1990 revolution," a reference to the upheaval that brought a short-lived reformist government to power 73 years ago.

But it was clear that even official backers of President and party leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were alarmed over the accelerating grass-roots campaign for change.

The latest sign came in an appeal from the Council of Ministers, calling on security organs to take "necessary measures to preserve order."

The statement, published on the front pages of the central newspaper Saturday, also appealed to progressive forces not to disrupt the "normal working rhythm of the country."

Organisers have predicted half a million people will take part in the Moscow rally, with thousands more elsewhere.

The military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Saturday militia and interior ministry troops were patrolling the capital, with others held in reserve for rapid deployment.

On Friday, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhakov warned the nation the authorities would crack down hard on any troublemakers at the demonstrations — called to support pro-reform candidates in the coming polls.

"I think every person, every citizen in our country should stop for a moment and consider what is really happening here," Ryzhakov said in a televised appeal.

In the wave of transformation sweeping across our country, we must learn to distinguish between what is positive and what is merely destructive."

Meanwhile, voters in Lithuania went to the polls Saturday to elect a local parliament expected to lead the once-independent republic back to statehood.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said voters were choosing from among 473 candidates for 141 seats in the republic's parliament.

Nicaraguans to have free choice in polls — U.N. envoy

MANAGUA (R) — U.N. envoy Elliot Richardson has said that Nicaraguans would have a free choice in Sunday's polls but the country's political leaders voiced concerns about election-day violence.

Shortly before Richardson spoke, the opposition said 22 of its poll-watchers had been detained by the authorities for political activity, hindering its efforts to ensure the ballot would be fair.

Richardson presented a new report on the electoral campaign by the United Nations observer team here which said there were problems of media bias in favour of the ruling Sandinistas and complaints of intimidation.

But despite these problems, Richardson said Nicaraguans were in position to decide between alternatives which had been given a reasonable chance to make their views known.

"They will be able freely to determine their future government through the verdict of the ballot boxes on Feb. 25," he told a news conference.

Some 2,500 international observers will watch over Sunday's polls, a bitter battle between the leftist Sandinistas led by President Daniel Ortega and the U.S.-backed National Opposition Union (UNO), whose presidential candidate is Violeta Chamorro. Both sides say they are confident of victory.

Polis indicate the Sandinistas are ahead, but Washington held fast Friday to its position of mistrust toward them.

"We remain sceptical regarding the Sandinistas because of their repeated failure to keep commitments they have made to

the Organisation of American States (OAS) and to the other Central American governments," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in a statement.

The UNO has said it fears fraud in the polls and the verdict of the observers will be crucial in deciding whether the winners are internationally accepted. It will be the most closely-scrutinised election ever held in Latin America.

Both Richardson and Nicaraguan political leaders said they were worried about possible violence on election day.

"The principal concern that we... have had in the closing days is that there might be some disruption of the electoral process whether as a result of over-zealousness... or conceivably for purposes of exploiting the situation in some manner," Richardson said.

Ortega also expressed fears Friday of bloodshed on election day, suggesting some of his opponents might be planning violence.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Nicaragua at the head of another observer mission Friday and said he would work to ensure the results reflected the people's will.

UNO vice-presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy said the detention of the poll-watchers could leave 22 polling stations in Managua without opposition monitoring on election day.

Each party has the right to name a poll-watcher to each polling centre and international observers have said this is crucial to ensure the vote is fair.

UNO officials said the poll-

watchers had been arrested separately but they had no details on why or when.

Godoy last week called on supporters to go to polling stations after they closed Sunday to prevent any attempt to tamper with election results.

But Godoy said Friday the opposition could adopt civil disobedience if there was election fraud. "We can revive the procedures of Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

Ortega said in an interview his leftist Sandinista government would refuse to run guns to rebels in El Salvador if it was re-elected Sunday.

Ortega told the New York Times he agreed to adhere to various pacts prohibiting the flow of illegal arms across Central America borders. He said his government accepted the need for strict mechanisms to prevent arms shipments to guerrilla groups.

"It is not enough to trust a government's words alone," Ortega said when asked why his promises should be believed. "You have to rely on controls," he said.

Sandinistas leaders have admitted that Nicaragua sent arms to Salvadorean rebels in 1980 and 1981. But they have denied since then any role in sending weapons or supplies to the Salvadorean guerrillas.

The newspaper said Saturday his comments appeared intended to respond to Bush administration officials who have said Nicaragua must end support for the Salvadorean rebels before it can resume normal relations with the United States.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Emswiler

KID STUFF

By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS
11 Dried fruit
12 Capture
13 Clear-witted
14 Above
15 Name place
16 Name place
17 Out of this world
18 Lullaby
19 Sound of
20 Disapproval
21 Bitter material
22 Fretter
23 Bitter drug
24 Shouts
25 Span
26 Demolish
27 Clashes
28 Col. Ichabod

DOWN

1 Comic strip
2 Character
3 Alliance acronym
4 To cover
5 A clear town
6 Flying toy
7 Wind car
8 Fossil resin
9 One who loathes
10 Lullaby
11 Lullaby
12 Sound of
13 Disapproval
14 Bitter material
15 Fretter
16 Bitter drug
17 Shouts
18 Span
19 Demolish
20 Clashes
21 Col. Ichabod

Diagramless

17 X, 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS
1 Mellow
2 In the past
3 Shed or seal
4 Ring or start
5 Night and Man
6 A la la
7 Out of this world
8 Remove subtle
9 Percolation
10 Sensory organ of crustaceans
11 Western capital

DOWN

1 Deflated
2 Feed the kitty
3 Handstands of
4 Published in
5 Humint
6 Lullaby
7 Words of
8 Understanding
9 Blended
10 Trolly killed by
11 Achilles
12 Discs

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